

FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

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FROM AmConsulate, Salonika

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TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON. 732662

Feb. 23, 1952

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SUBJECT: High Gendarmerie Comment on the former British Police Mission in the Florina Area of Northern Greece.

On the occasion of attending the third anniversary of the victory over the Communist guerrilla forces who were attacking Florina in February 1949, the writer had the opportunity of discussing with the head of the Aliens' Bureau, Major Rodakis; the Chief of the Gendarmerie at Florina, Lt. Colonel Demakopoulos; the Commander of the High Gendarmerie Command of Western Macedonia, Col. Triantafyllou, the cessation of the British Police Mission to Greece.

These officials spoke bitterly against the former British Police Mission, stating that they noticed British personnel, on occasion objected to proffered American assistance (insinuating they were anti-American). In addition, they stated that the British were close-mouthed about imparting advice, particularly on methods of work, to the Greeks. They questioned the advisability of the United States paying the bills and the British obtaining the credit for the Mission. They were anxious to see the inauguration of a similar American Police Mission to Greece.

The above views are significant since there appears to be signs of mounting antipathy towards the British in Greece.

The American officers attending the Greek Staff College at Salonika report that the Greek officers are actually rude to their British advisors. Inasmuch as the British personnel speak no Greek and the Americans do, the comments directed against the British are easily understood. There is no attempt made to be discreet in front of the Americans.

Lt. Gen. Manidakis, Commanding General of "C" Corps, who is regarded as being exceedingly energetic, intelligent, volunteered to the Consul that the British without their own divisions, should not be given NATO coordinating command over the Greek and Turkish forces. He also stated that the British Army was good at sports, but was not capable of meeting modern military exigencies.

Robert R. Schott
Robert R. Schott
American Vice Consul

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REPORTER

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